(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the industries in which requirement of additional skilled workers is increasing; and

(d) the average annual rate of increase in the requirement of labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) In view of Globalization, Economic Liberalization and Technical Development taking place the demand for skilled workers has increased in all the sectors of the economy.

(d) Demand for Labour varies from place to place and from Industry to Industry. A very rough estimate indicate that 5 to 7 million additional workers were engaged in gainful activity on an average per year during last 3 years.

Retrenchment and closure of industrial units

976. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Trade Unions have objected to Government's proposal to allow firms with 300 or less employees to lay off, retrench and close, without Government's permission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons/justifications for such a proposal; and

(d) the percentage of such industries in relation to all industrial units, benefits envisaged for industrial growth, labour reforms, employment generation etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The 2nd National Commission on Labour had given certain recommendations on lay-off, retrenchment and closure. It had recommended that prior permission was not necessary in respect of lay-off and retrenchment in an establishment of any employment size. However, in the case of establishments employing 300 or more workers, if the lay off continued for more than 30 days, *post facto* permission of the appropriate Government would be required. The Commission further recommended that the provision of Chapter V-B of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

pertaining to permission for closure should be made applicable to all establishments employing 300 or more workers.

Based on the above recommendation of 2nd National Commission on Labour, this issue was discussed at different tripartite fora. No consensus, however, was, arrived at in this regard.

(d) Government of India has not made any such assessment.

Unregistered job bureaus in Delhi

†977. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has expressed concern over job bureaus operating unabated and without registration in Delhi, under the garb of which the trade of illegal trafficking of village girls, forcing them into prostitution, is flourishing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government to check such job bureaus; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir. The Directorateaf Employment and Labour Department, Govt, of NCT of Delhi are not aware of any such case.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Target of NABARD through SHGs

†978. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a target for NABARD is fixed annually, with a view to provide benefits to the people:in rural areas through Self Help Groups (S.H.Gs);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the State-wise details of the achievements made by the NABARD, so far; and

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